



January 2005



2004 Sammy Award winners Bob Elskamp & Roger Shaw with Clark County Commissioner Craig Pridemore

2005 Sammy Awards

The 2005 Clark County Sammy Awards presentation is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., May 12 at the City of Vancouver Water Resource Education Center. This year marks the fifth year for this much anticipated event which celebrates the contributions and efforts of county citizens working on salmon recovery issues. Previous keynote speakers for the Sammy Awards include: Bob Lohn, Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries; Larry Cassidy, Jr., Council Chair, NW Power & Conservation Council; and former Governor of Washington Gary Locke.

Clark County citizens eagerly await the announcement of Sammy Award winners in the same way Hollywood looks forward to Oscar nominations. Well, maybe not quite as much. But previous award winners, such as the environmental education program *Mother Nature's Garden*, have included information regarding their awards on flyers and other publications. What started five years ago

as a show of appreciation, has become an honor of notable mention.

In order to have an awards presentation Clark County needs Sammy Award winners, and thus—nominations.

Do you know an individual or group who has made outstanding contributions in the area of salmon recovery? Show them your appreciation and admiration by nominating them for a 2005 Sammy Award.

Nomination forms can be obtained on our web site at www.saveoursalmon.com, or you can contact Joni McAnally at (360) 397-2022, joni.mcanally@clark.wa.gov for a copy.

Regional Salmon Recovery Plan Presentation

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) voted to adopt Washington State's first regional salmon recovery plan on December 10. Bill Dygert, acting chair of the LCFRB, together with Governor Gary Locke and Jeff Koenings of WDFW, presented the plan to the Federal Government during the "Plan Celebration". Over 100 people attended the December 15th event which was held in the Clark County Commissioners hearing room in downtown Vancouver.

"This is definitely a historic event," Locke said. "This plan is an extraordinary achievement—a product of those who live and work near these watersheds. This is the right way to do salmon recovery."

Accepting the plan on behalf of NOAA Fisheries was regional director, Bob Lohn. "Local involvement is absolutely vital to salmon recovery. Without locally led efforts, no recovery plan will succeed. We're committed to this plan as the foundation for salmon recovery. It's good for salmon and it's good for the region," Lohn said.

The LCFRB was established by the State Legislature in 1998 for the purpose of creating and implementing a recovery program for federally listed fish.

The LCFRB is a collaborative partnership made up of many federal, state, and local governments as well as hydro-electric operators and several tribes.



Bill Dygert, Jeff Koenings, and Governor Locke prepare to present the State's first regional salmon recovery plan.

The plan brings together four interrelated planning initiatives to produce a single, unified direction for recovery and ensure consistency and compatibility of goals, objectives, strategies, priorities and actions for:

- Endangered Species Act recovery planning for four salmon species listed or proposed for listing as threatened: Chinook salmon, chum salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and coho;
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council fish and wildlife subbasin planning for eight full and three partial subbasins;
- Watershed planning pursuant to the Washington Watershed Management Act;
- Habitat protection and restoration pursuant to the Washington Salmon Recovery Act.

"From the outset, the board has focused on preparing a recovery plan that works for both people and the fish of the region," said Jeff Breckel, executive director for the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.

Completion of the plan is a lasting legacy for outgoing Governor Locke and one of his final public duties. Wrapping up the event Locke said, "In restoring our salmon runs, we are restoring the icon of the Pacific Northwest. In restoring this icon, we also restore our spirit by living in harmony with our environment. This is the legacy I believe we must leave to our children and the generations that follow."

Environmental Ordinances Open House

The public is invited to attend an open house to learn about activities under way to update county

environmental ordinances. The open house will be held on January 11, 2005 at the Dollars Corner Fire Station, 21609 NE 72nd Avenue, from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be presentations about the ordinances at 4:30 and at 6 p.m. There will also be opportunities for people to provide comments that will be taken into account as the update process moves forward.

The county has begun three projects that relate to updating its environmental ordinances:

- The Wetlands Inventory Project, which is updating information about the location and function of wetlands.
- A recovery strategy to address threatened salmon species in Clark County.
- The Critical Areas Ordinances Project, which involves the review and update of the current ordinances related to wetlands, flood hazard areas, geologic hazard areas, critical habitat, and critical aquifer recharge areas. The county is required by Washington's Growth Management Act to periodically review and update its critical areas ordinances.

The current ordinances may be found on the county's web site, in Clark County Code, Table of Contents, Title 40 Unified Development Code and Title 40 Unified Development Code. The ordinances are located in Chapters 40.410-450.

For more information please contact Gordy Euler, Community Development Department, (360) 397-2375 ext. 4968, or gordon.euler@clark.wa.gov.

Calendar Highlights

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

For meeting information, contact the LCFRB at (360) 425-1555 or visit www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us.

ESA Advisory Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday of the month, Vancouver. Contact: John Tyler at (360) 397-2022 or john.tyler@clark.wa.gov

Environmental Ordinances Open House

4-7, January 11, Dollars Corner Fire Station, 21609 NE 72nd Avenue; for more information contact: Gordy Euler, Community Development Department, (360) 397-2375 ext. 4968, or gordon.euler@clark.wa.gov

5th Annual Clark County Sammy Awards Ceremony

3-5, May 12, City of Vancouver Water Resource Education Center; for more information contact Joni McAnally (360) 3972022 or joni.mcanally@clark.wa.gov